(c) the present production potential estimaed by (i) ONGC and (ii) UNOCAL;

(d) the action plan for augmenting the production potential in the State;

(e) whether extra rigs have been deployed to undertake deep drilling in two locations for exploitation of oil as per a decision taken in a meeting on 17-6-97, if not, the reasons therefor,

(f) whether any block has been awarded in the eastern part of Tripura to Messrs Oakland International, U.S.A.; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY Of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The total ultimate (recoverable) reserves of gas in Tripura as *op.* 1-4-98 are 17982.0 million cubic meter of which the estimated reserves of gas (i.e. balance recoverable) are 16930.3 million cubic meter.

(c) The present production potential of gas as estimated by ONGC from fields in Tripura is 2.02 MMm3/day. UNOCAL is yet to submit its report.

(d) By continued exploration and upgradation of unproved category of inplace volume of hydrocarbons Jhrough delineation efforts, additional reserves will be established which will enhance the existing production potential.

(e) Requirement of additional rigs if any, will be considered only after confirmation regarding deep drilling locations.

(f) and (g) A block AA-ON/3 covering an area of 2988 sq. km and comprising parts of central and eastern Tripura has been awarded to M/S. Oakland International LDC of USA for exploration.

Illegal Deduction from salary of ONGC Employees

1958. SHRI J. CHITHARAN JAN -DAS:

SHRI GURUDAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has re ceived a complaint from the ONGC Employees Assocation regarding illegal deduction of amount from monthly salary of the employees by the management of ONGC in the name of self contributory Post Retirement and Death-in-service Benefit Scheme (PRBS);

(b) if so, the details of the sche-mem and the deduction made from the employees; and

(c) what action has been taken to withdraw it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes Sir. This Ministry has received a complaint from the ONGC Employees Association alleging illegal deduction of amount from monthly salary of the employees by the management of ONGC in the name of self contributory Post Retirement and Death-in-service Benefit Scheme (PRBS).

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.